

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DLOS-04 INT-05 EB-07 CG-00

DOTE-00 SAL-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 IO-11 OMB-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /093 R

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APPROVED BY OES/OFA /FA KCLARKE-BOURNE

ARA/LA/EP-MR. CLARKE

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R 051551Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EFIS, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT:CLOSURE OF TUNA SEASON

REF: QUITO 2358

1. CLOSURE OF OPEN SEASON FOR FISHING IN REGULATORY AREA
OF INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC), WHICH
INCLUDES ECUADORIAN-CLAIMED WATERS, IS DETERMINED BY IATTC
SCIENTIFIC STAFF. DECISION AS TO WHEN SEASON SHOULD
CLOSE IS MADE ESSENTIALLY BY DR. JAMES JOSEPH, DIRECTOR OF
INVESTIGATIONS OF THE IATTC. ONCE COMMISSION DETERMINES
CLOSURE DATE, BASED ON TOTAL CATCHES SINCE JANUARY 1 AND ON
ANTICIPATED CATCHES DURING CLOSED SEASON UNDER SPECIAL PRO-
VISIONS, THIS INFORMATION IS TRANSMITTED TO MEMBER GOVERN-
MENTS, EACH OF WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE
BY ITS FLAG VESSELS. US DOES THIS BY COMPLICATED MEANS OF
INSPECTIONS, VESSEL REPORTING, AND HIGH FREQUENCY DIRECTION
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FINDING SYSTEM.

2. 1976 OPEN SEASON FOR YELLOWFIN TUNA WAS CLOSED MARCH 27.
HOWEVER, UNDER TERMS OF ANNUAL COMMISSION RESOLUTION VESSELS
WHICH ARE IN PORT AT CLOSURE AND LEAVE WITHIN 30 DAYS ARE
PERMITTED A "LAST FREE TRIP" FOR YELLOWFIN IN

REGULATORY AREA. THUS A VESSEL CAN STILL LEGALLY FISH FOR
YELLOWFIN CLOSE TO SHORE UNTIL IT HAS FILLED ITS CARRYING
CAPACITY WITH TUNA. THE LAST TRIP IS USUALLY COMPLETED
BY MOST VESSELS SOMETIME IN JUNE. ALSO, YELLOWFIN TUNA IS
ONLY SPECIES UNDER REGULATION BY IATTC. THUS VESSELS ARE
FREE TO FISH FOR OTHER TUNA SPECIES AT ANY TIME DURING
YEAR. THIS INCLUDES SKIPJACK TUNA, WHICH IS OFTEN

FOUND IN GREAT ABUNDANCE OFF ECUADOR, PARTICULARLY DURING
WINTER MONTHS.

3. DEPTS VIEW IS THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN IATTC SEASON AND POSSIBLE SEIZURES BY GOE IS AT
BEST VERY TENUOUS. WE CANNOT BE SURE WE HAVE AVOIDED
SEIZURES FOR 1976 UNTIL YEAR HAS ENDED. KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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